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POWERS TESTIMONY

EAST BERLIN DEUTSCHLANDSENDER IN GERMANY 1700 7 MAR 61 L

(WERNER STANKOWITZ COMMENTARY: "IS POWERS REALLY A GOOD AMERICAN?")

(TEXT) THE U.S. ESPIONAGE CHIEFS AND SOME WASHINGTON OFFICIALS ANNOUNCED MONDAY WITH EVERY APPEARANCE OF CONVICTION THAT THEIR SPY POWERS, WHO HAS BEEN SECRETLY QUESTIONED BY THE CIA CONTINUALLY FOR THE PAST FOUR WEEKS, HAD AFTER ALL BEEN A SPLENDID AGENT, A GOOD AMERICAN, BEYOND REPROACH, WHO--PLEASE NOTE--RENDERED HIS COUNTRY A GOOD SERVICE. EVEN HARD-BOILED U.S. JOURNALISTS--TO WHOM THE SPY PARDONED BY THE USSR WAS PRESENTED FOR PUBLIC QUESTIONING YESTERDAY--WERE EMBARRASSED TO FIND THEMSELVES SERVED SUCH A DISH OF UNCTUOUS CONTRADICTIONS AND HOPOCRITICAL EXONERATIONS.

POWERS YESTERDAY STATED AGAIN THAT HE HAD IN FACT BEEN SHOT DOWN BY SOVIET INSTALLATIONS AT 20,700 METERS OVER SVERDLOVSK. THE U.S. PROPAGANDA EXPERTS WHO--AS YOU WILL REMEMBER--FIRST DENIED ANY U.S. ESPIONAGE INVOLVING THE U-2, BUT LATER HAD TO ADMIT THE OPERATION WHEN FORCED YESTERDAY TO SAY GOODBYE FOREVER TO THE MYTH THAT U.S. HIGH ALTITUDE PLANES ARE ALLEGEDLY BEYOND REACH. THIS IS OF COURSE PAINFUL BUT THE USSR AT THE VERY BEGINNING OF THE U-2 AFFAIR WARNED AGAINST ANY DISASTROUS OVERRATING OF THE U.S. POLICY OF STRENGTH, EVEN IN THE AIR.

POWERS' CHIEFS SHAMELESSLY DECLARED MONDAY THAT HE HAD CARRIED THE FAMOUS POISON BOMB FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF COMMITTING SUICIDE TO ESCAPE POSSIBLE TORTURE. YET EVERYBODY KNOWS ABOUT THE DISGUSTING CAMPAIGN AGAINST POWERS. WHEN HE WAS FLOWN BACK TO THE UNITED STATES PEOPLE SHOUTED AT HIM: "WHY DO YOU THINK YOU WERE PAID SO WELL?" OR "WHY DIDN'T YOU KILL YOURSELF AS YOU WERE ORDERED?". THE U.S. JINGOISTS SCREAMED "COWARD" IN HEADLINES AND DOZENS OF COMMENTARIES AND EVEN ASKED POWERS' WIFE TO MAKE SIMILAR STATEMENTS.

THIS WAS FOLLOWED MONDAY BY THE CONTEMPTIBLE NONSENSE ABOUT POSSIBLE TORTURE--ANTI-COMMUNIST DRIVE WHICH BOTH THE CIA AND U.S. PUBLIC OPINION REALIZE IS SHOWBORN AND INSIDIOUS. THERE IS NO NEED TO STATE THAT POWERS COULD ONLY CONFIRM THAT THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES TREATED HIM FAIRLY AND CORRECTLY. AS HE SAID HIMSELF, HE WAS TREATED BETTER AT SVERDLOVSK AND MOSCOW THAN HE HAD EXPECTED.

WHAT DID HE EXPECT? WHAT SORT OF ATROCITY STORIES HAD HIS SUPERIORS FED HIM, THE U.S. JOURNALISTS ASKED THEMSELVES. THEY ASK THIS ESPECIALLY SINCE THEY HAVE NOW BEEN GIVEN THE EXTREMELY THANKLESS TASK OF SEEING THAT THE POWERS AFFAIR IS FORGOTTEN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AS THE "FOCAL POINT OF AN UNPLEASANT EPISODE."

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN, DEAR LISTENERS? IT MEANS THAT THE U.S. POLICY OF PLAYING INTER-NUCLEAR POLITICS WITH THE HELP OF ESPIONAGE AND BLACKMAIL IS TO BE HUSHED UP--ESPECIALLY NOW, BEFORE THE GENEVA DISARMAMENT TALKS, IN OTHER WORDS, LET THERE BE NO MENTION OF THE FACT THAT THE NUCLEAR ARMS CONTROL WHICH THE U.S. HAS DEMANDED IS IN REALITY ANOTHER FORM OF ESPIONAGE ON A LARGE SCALE; NO MENTION OF THE FACT THAT U-2 SPY PLANES CONTINUE TO BE BUILT Apace; NO MENTION OF THE FACT THAT THE NETWORK OF RADAR STATIONS SURVEILLING THE SOCIALIST CAMP IS BEING STRENGTHENED; NO MENTION OF THE NEW AGENTS AND SPY NETWORKS, MEMBERS OF THE PEACE CORPS, ARE BEING DRILLED AND PAID FOR OPERATIONS AGAINST THE SOCIALIST CAMP.